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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
12 June 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Communist Evasion of the International
Agreements on Vietnam, Korea, and Laos

SUMMARY

Since the end of the fighting in Korea, the United States has had an opportunity to observe in practice the implementation of international agreements by truce supervision commissions in Korea, Vietnam, and Laos. Communist violations of the international agreements made with respect to each of these countries have been numerous and flagrant. Nevertheless, the supervisory commissions have been able to document only a handful of Communist transgressions. Their failure has been due to Communist evasion, harassment, and obstruction. At the same time that the Communist members of the commissions used their positions to violate both the spirit and letter of the agreements, they gained an additional advantage by collecting valuable intelligence on non-Communist military activities through commission operations. They have been aided in their actions by the functional weakness of the commissions under terms of the international agreements.

General Nature of Communist Evasion

1. The Communists have managed to evade detection by the commissions of violations in North Vietnam and North Korea by placing crippling restrictions on the scope and frequency of inspections by commission investigation teams. Endless Communist excuses, such as an alleged lack of transportation or security in the area to be investigated, have also been used to block operation of the teams.

2. Since the commission for Vietnam was established in 1954, North Vietnamese military facilities have been steadily expanded and the army has been

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approximately doubled in strength. During the same period a relatively modern, well-balanced army has been created in North Korea to replace the broken, defeated force left at the end of the Korean War. Both of these developments are in direct violation of the international agreements on Vietnam and Korea.

3. In Laos and South Vietnam, the supervisory commissions have been hamstrung by the actions of Communist commission members, who have been able to delay the initiation of inspections until local Communist authorities could take appropriate action to cover up violations. Inspection teams in Laos and South Vietnam have also been overloaded by countless false Communist charges of violations by pro-western forces in those countries.

4. In the meantime, North Vietnamese troops and supplies have been used with impunity by Hanoi to support Communist Pathet Lao aggression in Laos. Hanoi has also fueled the Communist insurrection in South Vietnam with a stream of guerrilla infiltrators, money, and supplies. These activities are barred by the international agreements.

5. While sabotaging commission operations in South Vietnam and South Korea, Communist commission members have used their posts to collect military intelligence on South Vietnamese and South Korean armed forces. In South Vietnam, the Communists have also used the commission as a link with the local Communist guerrillas.

6. In obstructing the operations of the supervisory commissions, the Communists have been aided by the failure of the international agreements to spell out in detail commission powers and procedures. No enforcement mechanism was provided any of the commissions and investigative procedures were left vague. The Communists have particularly used the latter weakness to bog the commissions down in a mass of procedural red tape. The commissions have also been weakened on occasion by members from neutral nations who, bending over backward to demonstrate their neutrality, have unfairly favored the Communist side.

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